

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 18 and 20 to 23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 18, and 21 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 to 3, 7 to 10, 12 to 14 and 16 to 22 were rejected over U.S. Patent No. 6,363,058 (Roobol); claims 4, 15 and 23 were rejected over Roobol in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,091 (Stewart); claims 5 and 11 were rejected over Roobol in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,077 (Whitehead); and claim 6 was rejected over Roobol in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,598,417 (Crisler). As shown above, Applicants have amended the claims to put the claims in better form for examination. This Amendment, however, should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections, since its arguments are based on existing features of the claims.

Each of claims 1, 12, 18, and 21 includes outputting a signal that indicates a number of blocks of data per service to be transmitted in a frame of data. A receiver, such as a subscriber station, may use this information to read data from the frame. The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest this features of the independent claims.

In this regard, it was said in the Office Action that Roobol, from column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 40 discloses the foregoing feature of the claims. In particular, it was said that the number of RLC/MAC PDUs 165 in a transmission block 45 must inherently be signaled as part of a transmission format in order to permit the data to be decoded correctly. Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of Roobol. More specifically, while it is true that Roobol describes that the amount of data in transmission block 145 varies with time depending upon the transmission rate and interleaving length, there is nothing that necessarily requires the

Roobol system to rely on a signal to indicate the amount of data being transmitted. Roobol could, conceivably, use other methods of identifying PDUs including, e.g., the use of identifiers or the like in the data itself. For example, columns 5 and 6 of Roobol describe altering the transmission format and block priorities to account for variable transmission rates. While this portion of Roobol does not appear to directly address notifying a receiving station of variances in transmitted data, it does indicate that the variability of the data is indicated in the data itself, which, conceivably, could be used by a receiver to identify PDUs.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that outputting a signal indicating a number of blocks of data per service to be transmitted in a frame of data is not inherent in Roobol. Crisler, as indicated in the Office Action, describes signaling using a channel update message. However, Crisler's signaling is to reserve time slots for a request to participate in a service (see, Crisler, column 6, line 13), not to indicate a number of blocks of data for a plurality of services that are to be transmitted in a single frame.

The remaining art is not understood to disclose or to suggest anything that would remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Roobol and Crisler vis-à-vis the independent claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 12, 18, and 21 are believed to be allowable.

Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or

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Page : 11 of 11

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concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claims, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claims does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

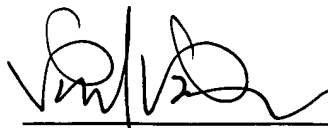
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

While no fees are believed to be due with this filing, please charge any deficiencies apply any credits to Deposit Account 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket No. 12758-022001.

Respectfully submitted,

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